



Tips for
safe grilling

See Page 6A



Hatching
a good
time

Page 18A

Index

212 Ways to be a Soldier
• Page 4A
Viewpoint
• Page 5A
Chaplain
• Page 9A
Community Events
• Page 11A
Sports and Leisure
• Page 17A

The Signal



Friday, June 6, 2003

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News UPDATE

Cuviello farewell

A farewell ceremony for Lt. Gen. Peter M. Cuviello, the Army's chief information officer, is 8:30 a.m. June 13 in the Signal Towers courtyard. Cuviello was the Fort Gordon commanding general from 1998-2000.

He retires in July after 34 years of service.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Army birthday celebration immediately following at 9:15 a.m. The Army is marking its 228th birthday.

Signal Ball slated

The 143rd Signal Ball is **Thursday** at the Gordon Club. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$18 for E-5/GS-5 and below and \$25 for E-6/GS-6 and above. The guest speaker is Lt. Gen. Peter M. Cuviello.

For information, call Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Dempsey at 791-1761.

Fishing derby

A kid's fishing derby is **Saturday** at Claypit Lakes. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and fishing begins at 8 a.m.

Trophies will be awarded to first, second and third place and in each of four age groups for the most pounds of fish caught.

The first 300 kids receive a free T-shirt. Call Sgt. 1st Class John Landrum at 791-2192.

Providers wanted

Registration for new applicants to become a Family Child Care Provider is **June 16-20** from 9 a.m. - noon, daily in Building 45400.

Training will start July 11 at 9 a.m. Applicants must reside in government quarters and all training is provided at no cost to family members. Child care will also be provided.

For more information, call 791-3993/4440.

Concert

U.S. Army Entertainment and Fort Gordon Morale Welfare and Recreation present Ashanti with guest Mr. Cheeks, **June 27**.

Gates open at 7 p.m., concert begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the gate, and available at all CSRA Papa John's Pizza, Pyramid Music on Broad Street & K-Mart Plaza, Culpepper Records in Thomson, Quality Records in Aiken, and on Fort Gordon at PX Customer Service, Gordon Lanes, The Gordon Club, Aladdin Travel, and Fort Gordon Federal Credit Union.

For information visit fortgordon.com, or call 791-6779.

Law saves military thousands in tuition

Denise Allen

Special to The Signal

The Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia recently approved a measure that will make it easier on some military families' pocketbooks.

Active duty military, spouses and dependents currently enrolled in a Georgia university can continue to receive in-state tuition even in the event the military sponsor is transferred out of state.

"This is really quite exciting," said Pat Buchholz, strategic management officer.

In February, Gen. Eric Shinseki, Army Chief of Staff, spearheaded an effort to get colleges and universities to amend policies to make it more favorable for military families. He concentrated on five states, including Georgia. Those five states had the largest

Army populations.

He was seeking three goals - for in-state tuition rates for soldiers and families within their legal state of residency, within their state of assignment and for a continuation of these benefits in the event the military sponsor was transferred out of state.

Georgia already met the first two requirements and was the first of the five states to amend its policies to meet all criteria.

Buchholz said the policy change is the first step. Army officials would like the measure put into legislation.

Obtaining the waiver is easy. There is a form that can be obtained through the university, and a copy of the military personnel's orders must be attached.

The waiver could save military families an average of \$13,000 annually.



Photo by James Hudgins

Children's gift

Terry Smith, Fort Gordon deputy garrison commander, presented a check to the Children's Miracle Network telethon Sunday. The \$1,000 was designated during the CSRA Combined Federal Campaign.

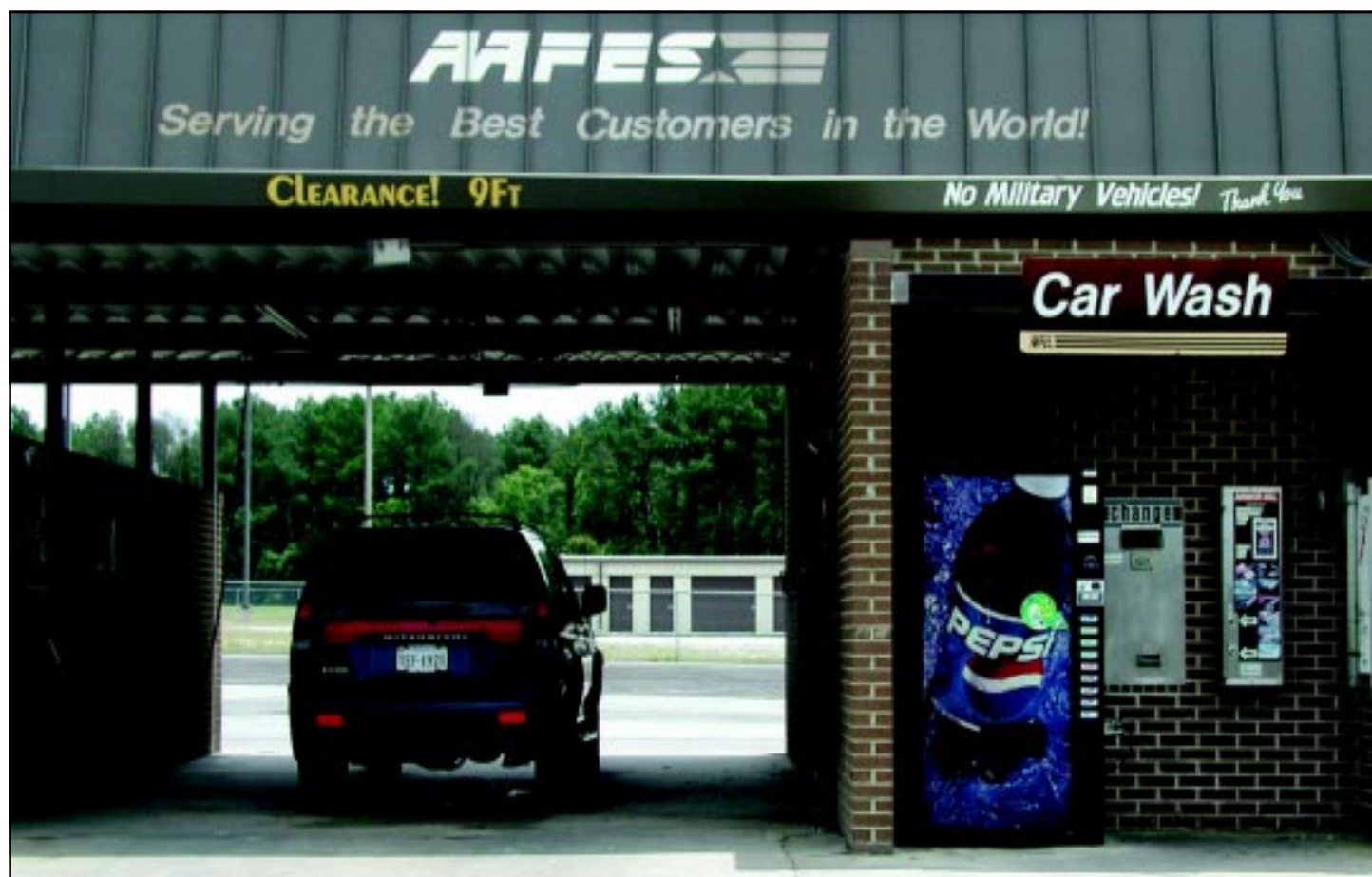


Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy Wamble

Among new businesses to be added to post is a car wash which will feature bays large enough to wash recreational vehicles.

Post to open new businesses

*Endeavors include
car wash, 24-hour
restaurant*

Denise Allen

Special to The Signal

Employees or students on post at 1 a.m. may soon have an alternative to vending machines for a late night meal.

Proposals to build a 24-hour sit down restaurant such as a Waffle House or Huddle House may be requested within the next few weeks, according to Pat

Buchholz, the post's strategic management officer.

"We have 24-hour missions here. After a certain point, you can't even get pizza delivery," she said.

The restaurant, which would be located across from the Burger King, would be a public-private partnership.

While the official timeline on such a venture is 51-weeks, Buchholz said it usually takes about three to four years for it to happen; however, things are moving much quicker on this project.

The idea for the new restaurant has only been around since February.

The Army's Community and Family Services officials have said they want to

see the project succeed especially when learning about the amount of community support it received.

Less than a week after contacting them, Buchholz said she had letters of support from the governments in Augusta and Grovetown, the Metro Augusta Chamber of Commerce and Rep. Charlie Norwood's office.

"Things are really moving," she said. She does not have a timeline as to how long it will take to build the restaurant; however, she anticipates it will move smoothly as the site for the new facility has been built on previously.

See Businesses, page 2

eCybermission needs guides, ambassadors

WASHINGTON — eCybermission, the Army-sponsored new Web-based science, math and technology competition for middle school students, needs Army volunteers for next year's contest.

Specifically, eCybermission officials are looking for soldier, Army civilian or retiree volunteers to serve as "ambassadors" to promote the contest in their local middle schools and "cyberguides" to assist competitors conduct online research.

The Army launched eCybermission last October. More than 900 teams comprising 3228 students participated the first year, with 442 teams submitting entries. National eCybermission winners for academic year 2002-2003 were honored with a formal dinner and savings bonds awards in Washington, D.C., May 30.

In the competition, students work as part of a three- to four-person team with an adult supervisor on one of four mission areas: sports and recreation, arts and entertainment, environment, or health and safety.

Top prize is a \$5,000 savings bond per team member. All participants get an eCybermission T-shirt.

Last year eCybermission was offered to seventh- and eighth-graders. This year's competition will expand to include sixth-graders.

Officials said they hope for a more robust eCybermission ambassador force to help make more schools and students aware of the competition.

See Ambassador, Page 9

Army partially lifts Stop-Loss; soldiers may leave by October

WASHINGTON — The Army has lifted "Stop Loss" for active-component units and for soldiers in about half of the specialties that had been required to stay on active duty.

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Reginald J. Brown approved the partial lifting of Stop Loss May 27.

This lifting of Stop Loss will allow about 16,000 active-component, 4,900 Army Reserve and 675 National Guard soldiers to leave active duty if they want between now and October, personnel officials said.

These soldiers, as they begin their

transition from the Army, will be provided time to complete transition and career counseling, along with demobilization activities, officials said. They said the Army's Stop Loss exit strategy will normally allow 180 days to transition soldiers returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Army personnel strength managers will regulate separation dates to ensure no adverse impact on Army-wide readiness, officials said.

The Army lifted its "stop movement" order earlier this month to allow many OIF soldiers to report to their next assignments.

Soldiers in the following specialties are now no longer subject to Stop Loss:

Officers with specialties: 15C35 (Aviation Intelligence); Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) K4 (Special Operations Aviation), K5 (MH-60K Pilot), and/or K6 (H-47E Pilot); 18 (Special Forces); 38 (Civil Affairs); 39 (Psychological Operations).

Warrant Officers with specialties: 153E (MH-60 Pilot); 154E (MH-47 Pilot); 155E (C-12 Pilot); 155G (O-5A/EO-5B/RC-7 Pilot); Pilots with ASI K4 (Special Operations Aviation), K5 (MH-60K Pilot, and/or K6 H-47E Pilot); 180A (Special Forces); 350B (Intelli-

gence Technician); 351C (Area Intelligence Technician); 352G (Voice Intercept Technician);

Enlisted soldiers with Military Occupational Specialties: 00Z (Command Sergeant Major with Special Forces (SF) background); 18B (SF Weapons Sergeant); 18C (SF Engineer Sergeant); 18D (SF Medical Sergeant); 18E (SF Communications Sergeant); 18F (SF Operations and Intelligence Sergeant); 18Z (SF Senior Sergeant); 37F (Psychological Operations Specialist); 38A (Civil Affairs Specialist); 67U (CH-47 Helicopter Re-

See Stop loss, page 2

A penny saved is a penny earned

TSP vs. U.S. Savings Bonds, know your options

by **Spc. Leslie K. Pearson**
513th MI Brigade photojournalist

The military Thrift Savings Plan and U.S. Savings Bonds are just two of the many options available when considering long term financial investing. While both are convenient opportunities to save and earn money as a source of retirement income, they differ in several ways.

For instance, savings bonds can be purchased by anyone at anytime, either on-line with Savings Bonds Direct, at local banks or at other financial institutions. On the other hand, only military personnel and civilian Department of Defense employees are eligible to sign-up to contribute to the TSP.

This can be done during the two open seasons each year or within 60 days of joining the service. The same goes for active duty Reservists or members leaving active duty and becoming a Reservist. The open season dates this year are April 15 through June 30 and Oct. 15 through Dec. 31, which means that the time is right to enroll now.

Enrollment in TSP is rela-

tively easy and can be done by filing with your personnel-payroll office, on-line through myPay, or the TSP web site at **www.tsp.gov**. Once that's done, contributions are made automatically each month.

Making changes or transactions to investment contributions must be done on-line by deciding on one or more of five funds to invest in. At present, the maximum contribution allowed from basic pay for pay periods beginning in 2003 is 8 percent. However, it is proposed that in 2006 and thereafter, TSP contribution limitations will be eliminated. Up to 100 percent of any incentive pay, special pay or bonus pay received can be invested, explained Spc. Antoine Cooper, a finance specialist at Darling Hall.

Another investment vehicle is savings bonds. Savings bonds are issued by the U.S. Treasury Department and mailed to the owner, usually within 15 business days. The two types of bonds that the military deals with are the Series EE and Series I bonds.

These bonds accrue interest monthly at a variable rate while



the interest is compounded semiannually. Earnings can be claimed when a bond is redeemed, however it's better to let the bonds fully mature (up to 30 years) before redeeming them to get the maximum benefit, said Cooper.

Series EE bonds are available in \$100, \$200, \$500 and \$1,000 denominations. Series I bonds are available in \$50, \$75,

\$100, \$200, \$500 and \$1,000 denominations. The main difference in these two bonds is that the EE bond takes a few years longer to mature but can be purchased at half the face value. The savings bonds Web site **www.savingsbonds.gov** shows that the current interest rate for I bonds is 4.66 percent while the EE bonds have an interest rate of 2.66 percent.

There are several advantages to owning savings bonds. For starters, they can be purchased for small amounts of money—the minimum investment is \$25 when buying through financial institutions. They're lower risk than most investments since both principal and interest are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States, and lost, stolen, or destroyed bonds can be replaced.

Bonds are also good for the American economy because the money invested directly helps finance the country's borrowing needs.

Both the TSP and savings bonds have tax advantages. Any interest earned on savings bonds is exempt from state and local income tax. Paying federal income tax on the interest accrued can be deferred until the bond has been cashed out or until it stops earning interest in 30 years. With the TSP, contributions or earnings are not taxable until the account is withdrawn.

According to a recent article in *The Bond Teller*, an on-line publication of the Department of the Treasury, a couple of

changes in bonds occurred in May when the TreasuryDirect electronic system made EE bonds available to be purchased via electronic funds transfer. This has been possible with I bonds since October.

Announced in May was a change to the original maturity period of EE bonds. Paper EE bonds purchased after June will reach face value after 20 years, instead of the 17-year original maturity that has been in effect since 1993.

Historically, savings bonds have a good reputation of being risk free. The TSP is more like a mutual fund and is dependent on a fluctuating market to produce earnings and losses, so it is slightly more of a risk depending on which of the five funds you invest in.

"Overall both the TSP and U.S. Savings Bonds are really good, low risk programs for retirement investing," said Cooper. "You'll be saving some money for the future with either one; some people choose to do both. No matter what, everyone eventually hits that 45-50 age range and it's best to have some money put away."

Service members see increase in special pays in May check

Defense Finance and Accounting Services

ARLINGTON, Va. — Retroactive increases in Imminent Danger Pay and the Family Separation Allowance Type II are included in authorized service members' May pay, according to payroll personnel at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. The IDP increase affects 59,610 Airmen and women, 146,790 soldiers, 43,048 Marines, and 80,305 sailors. The FSA increase will go to 42,783 Airmen and women, 117,144 soldiers, 16,277 Marines, and 98,096 sailors.

IDP is payable when a member is on official duty in a designated IDP area, as identified in the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulations.

FSA Type II is payable to service members in the following circumstances: enforced family separation when dependents travel is not au-

thorized at government expense; when a member is assigned to a ship that spends more than 30 days away from its homeport; or when a member is assigned to temporary duty for more than 30 days and dependents do not reside at or near the temporary duty station.

The new monthly payment levels, retroactive to October 1, 2002, are \$225 for IDP, an increase of \$75, and \$250 for FSA, an increase of \$150.

These increases are included in the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations bill signed by President Bush on April 16 and are effective through the end of Fiscal Year 2003 (Sept. 30, 2003). The House and Senate Armed Services Committees are considering making these increases permanent as part of the Fiscal Year 2004 Defense Authorization Bill.

Imminent Danger Pay is not taxable for service members in combat zones. The Family Separation Allowance is always tax-free.

The new monthly payment levels, retroactive to Oct. 1, 2002, are \$225 for IDP, an increase of \$75, and \$250 for FSA, an increase of \$150.

Businesses

From page 1

"The utility infrastructure is there," she said.

Several other new businesses will be coming into Fort Gordon over the next few months.

An Internet café, Seattle's Best Coffee and a pizza restaurant will be housed in a former dining facility at the corner of Rice Road and B Street.

Which pizza restaurant will be in the facility has not yet been finalized; however, it is tentatively scheduled to open in November.

Also, a Taco John's will open in the PX food court in the fall.

Eateries aren't the only new businesses opening on post.

UPS will open a shop at the

PXtra on Aug. 25.

Also, construction should begin on a new car wash on Lane Avenue during July.

The old car wash will become a detail shop, and the new one will feature bays large enough to wash recreational vehicles.

Construction should take about 90 days.

Stop Loss

From page 1

pairer); 98C (Signals Intelligence Analyst).

The Stop Loss policy was initiated in four separate increments to allow the Army to retain soldiers — who were determined to be essential to the national security of the United States — on active duty beyond their date of retirement or separation for an open-ended period.

Stop Loss does not affect most involuntary separations or retirements, officials said.

Reserve-component Unit Stop Loss, remains in effect.

The following skills for all components remain affected by the Army's 12-Month, Skill-Based Stop Loss Program:

Officers designated: 30 Information Operations, 31 Military Police, 34 Strategic Intelligence, 35 Military Intelligence, 45A Comp-

troller, 48G FAO (Mideast/N Africa), 51C Contract & Industrial Management, 53 Information Systems Management.

Warrant Officers: 152C OH-6 Scout Pilot, 153D UH-60 Pilot, 154C CH-47D Pilot, 311A CID Special Agent, 351B Counter Intelligence Technician, 351E Human Intelligence Collection Technician.

Enlisted: 52E Prime Power Production Specialist, 55D EOD Specialist, 74B Information Systems Operator, 92M Mortuary Affairs Specialist, 95B Military Police, 95C Correctional Specialist, 95D CID Special Agent, 96B Intelligence Analyst, 96U UAV Operator, 97B Counter Intelligence Agent, 97E Human Intelligence Collector, 97L Translator (Minus Russian and Spanish), 98G Voice Interceptor (Language Specific).



Photo by Jan McElmurray

Tech talk

Chris Oswalt (right) discusses a high tech cable with a student from the Warrant Officer Basic Course during the Fort Gordon Technology Expo Wednesday at the Gordon Club. Exhibitors gave hands-on demonstrations of the latest in data warehousing, network operations services, web and enterprise content management, wireless networking and computing.

Civilian personnel system ‘not cutting it’

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The civilian personnel system in the Defense Department “is not cutting it,” said Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld today.

Rumsfeld, who spoke at the National Press Club, said that the department is handcuffed by its reliance on an antiquated personnel system. He called today’s civilian personnel system “an industrial age organization struggling to perform in an information age world.”

DoD has proposed changes to the civilian personnel system designed to make it more flexible and responsive, Rumsfeld said. It cannot happen too quickly. “The system for recruiting, retaining, managing the federal workforce on the civil-

ian side is clearly not working well,” he said.

President Bush has proposed the creation of a new national security personnel system that would be merit-based. It would give the department more flexibility and agility as to how it manages the roughly 700,000 civilians in DoD.

More than one-third of the federal workforce is in the Defense Department. Rumsfeld said that managers cannot use this personnel resource effectively, given the current rules. Rumsfeld pointed to the flexibility Con-

gress gave Department of Homeland Security managers as an example.

In addition to the Homeland Security example, Rumsfeld would like to capitalize on the more than two decades worth of pilot projects the department has sponsored to increase workplace flexibility and reward top-notch employees. “The task of fighting the global war on terrorism certainly forces us to recognize that the time has come to bring those same kind of innovative practices to the work of the Department of Defense,” he said.

Part of the reform package would allow DoD to turn over about 320,000 jobs now being performed by military personnel to civil service or contractor employees.

Managers use military personnel in these jobs because it is easier than navigating the shoals of the civil service bureaucracy. He said these 320,000 military personnel in civilian jobs is an unnecessary strain on uniformed personnel. He said it is not right, especially when DoD is calling up the reserve components and invoking the stop-loss program.

He said it is also demoraliz-

ing for civilian employees. DoD civilian employees want their skills to be used in a crisis. But this doesn’t happen because of the outdated rules that make it difficult to shift personnel, Rumsfeld said.

“For example in Operation Iraqi Freedom, 83 percent of civilians in theater were contractors,” he said. “Only 17 percent were civilian federal workers. The complex web of rules and regulations prevents us from moving DoD civilians to new tasks quickly. So managers turn to military or contractors instead of civil service civilians.”

DoD also has a problem in hiring new workers. He said private firms can size up a prospect at a job fair and offer them the job immediately.

“When DoD interviews the same people, all we can do is offer them a ream of paperwork and promise to get back to them in three to five months,” he said. “It should not be surprising that the most talented folks end up working someplace other than the DoD.”

Rumsfeld’s proposed changes would allow the department to negotiate with national offices instead of locals.

“The complex web of rules and regulations prevents us from moving DoD civilians to new tasks quickly. So managers turn to military or contractors instead of civil service civilians.”

Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense

212 ways to be a Soldier

A day in the life of a ... 92A (automated logistical specialist)

Note: This is the 31st MOS featured in a series describing all 212 Army careers.

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

“I love my MOS (military occupational specialty),” Staff Sgt. Patrina Lee, Headquarters and Company A, 67th Signal Battalion, said. “One of the reasons I love it is since you have multiple jobs, you can’t get bored. You can go from one duty station doing one thing to a different duty station doing something totally different.”

Lee has been a 92A since she enlisted nine years ago. She said the variety of her job always keeps it fresh. Since a 92A can work in so many different places Lee said, it never gets boring.

One of the places a 92A may end up, she said, is within a motor pool as a clerk ordering parts or scheduling the services mechanics perform. A 92A may also work within a warehouse known as a Supply Support Activity.

“It’s like a big warehouse, with everything, all types of parts – generators, tires, anything that the Army uses,” she said.

Lee said this means a 92A will work hand-in-hand with other MOSs, such as 63Bs (light-wheel mechanics) to distribute parts to them.

“What the mechanics will do is actually go to the 92A that’s assigned to their motor pool, and then that 92A will go to the warehouse to get the parts,” Lee explained.

Another place one might find a 92A, Lee said, is at a food storage warehouse (where the dining facilities rations are stored), or at the commissary.

Besides working in a variety of locations on a military installation, Lee said a 92A can be attached to any type of unit. In fact, Lee has already worked in Sig-



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Staff Sgt. Patrina Lee, Headquarters and Company A, 67th Signal Battalion, behind the wheel. As a 92A, when deployed, Lee could be responsible for transporting supplies.

nal, Air Defense Artillery, military intelligence, main support, forward support and supply and support companies at this point in her Army career.

The Advanced Individual Training to learn the job of a 92A spans 14 weeks and is at Fort Lee, Va. Lee said the AIT is conducted in phases.

“You learn the different equipment you use, such as different supply computer systems and their components, as well as the day-to-

day operations of your job,” she said.

The AIT even has a miniature mock warehouse where students simulate their future work environments.

“You get to experience what it will be like once you complete AIT and go into your actual job,” Lee said.

Another part of working in a warehouse is moving the supplies within it around. For this duty, 92As are taught to operate forklifts and motorized hand

jack carts.

“That’s pretty cool,” Lee said.

One of the more challenging tasks of the 92A MOS, she said, is working in high-priority places where parts are needed immediately.

“When I was in Air Defense Artillery, if you had a part go down on a Patriot missile, you could be on call to get that part as soon as possible, because it was a high-priority zone,” she said. “You’d have to look in the system and see if it’s in the

database. If you have it on hand, then you’d automatically pull it and give it to the person who needs it. If you don’t have it, you’d find out where it can be found anywhere in the Army and who can get it to you overnight.”

Lee described what it takes to make a good 92A.

“You’ve got to be energetic, willing to work with others because you have to communicate and be versatile,” she said. “Another good thing about the job is that it’s a good MOS to have experience in for

the civilian sector for when you get out.”

Among the civilian jobs a 92A can transfer their experience to include, warehouse manager or other shipping and purchasing work.

“A lot of people go on to work at central issue facility (a supply operation on military installations) or Military Clothing Sales stores on post, just as civilians,” Lee said.

As for Lee, she plans to put in her warrant officer packet and continue to work as a 92A at that level.

Fort Discovery-did you know?

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Fort Discovery and Fort Gordon have a closer relationship than one might expect. In fact, a sort of miniature or trial Fort Discovery was once located on Fort Gordon before the facility downtown opened.

A 10,000-square-foot exhibit called “The Preview Discovery Center” was started on Fort Gordon in an old dining facility in 1989, said Jim Frye, Deputy Director of Fort Discovery for the Army.

The facility was open on post from 1989 to 1996, while Fort Discovery was being created downtown, Frye said. It hosted school groups, and was open to the general public the first Saturday of every month, he said.

“The only reason that we closed there was because we were getting ready to open this building,” Frye said. “We learned a lot from that preview concept on post.”

Soldiers from Fort Gordon can also be found at Fort Discovery every weekend. The soldiers come from the Signal Basic Non-commissioned Officer Course on post and ensure no one gets hurt on an exhibit or uses an exhibit improperly as well as performing additional basic security measures, Staff Sgt. Travis Ware, a member of BNCOC class 31U 022-03, said.

Ware said the soldiers volunteer for two four hour shifts, one Saturday and one Sunday, and that volunteering at Fort Discovery

also gave him the chance to learn and see some new things.

“I got to see some exhibits that I’d never seen before,” Ware said. “I saw some interesting virtual reality exhibits. It was educational. I saw a show on nitrogen gas and it gave me some more information than I remembered from being in school.”

Frye said the BNCOC has been working with Fort Discovery and providing volunteers the last several years.

He said Fort Discovery has had a long-standing relationship with Fort Gordon and the Army, which is a partner of the National Science Center, and that Fort Discovery has a lot of exhibits of interest to a soldier on post.

“We look at Fort Gordon as part of our service community,” he said. “We have a great connection with Fort Gordon because the Army is a partner of our program. We focus a lot on technology that has either stemmed from, or you would possibly see at Fort Gordon. If you’re doing something with satellite communications on Fort Gordon, we have satellite dishes upstairs which illustrate the principle of parabolic reflection. This allows you to communicate across the building by whispering in one dish and hearing it across the building.”

“There are many exhibits on post that a soldier can look at and say, ‘I know how that works,’ or that they can relate to.”

Frye said the Army has also built several exhibits just for Fort Discovery over the years on a variety of military-related topics such as the 21st century land-warrior and night vision.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

A medical helicopter is one of the military displays that can be seen at Fort Discovery. Fort Discovery debuted on Fort Gordon.

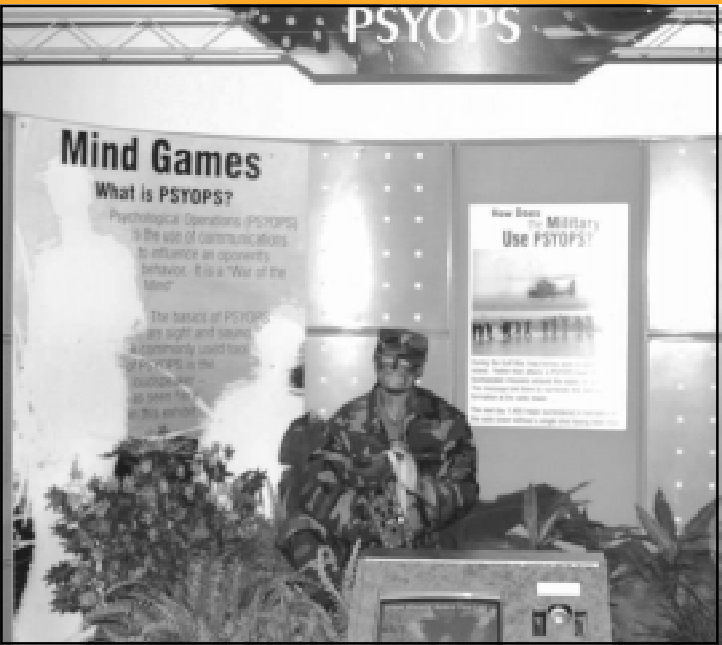


Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

A psychological operations exhibit at Fort Discovery is currently on display at the museum.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Korea — 50 years ago this week, June 5-11 POWs resolved, DMZ line now truce issue

Jim Caldwell

WASHINGTON — The Korean War got a step closer to an armistice as both the United Nations and communists agreed on terms for exchanging all prisoners of war, 50 years ago this week.

June 5-7, 1953 — Big crowds of South Koreans staged demonstrations in Seoul and other large cities against a truce, which seems to be near.

South Korean President Syngman Rhee is trying to block the cease-fire arrived at by the allies and communists. He writes to President Dwight Eisenhower on May 6 that his government would accede "at our risk" if the United States agreed to make a mutual defense agreement where American forces would help defend the Republic of Korea against an invader; keep U.S. military forces in South Korea until it builds its forces enough to stand alone; and give the ROK military enough supplies to help defend the country with U.S. military help.

The letter said, "Our preference is still to have U.S. forces by our side to help us out. But if that is no longer possible, Korea should exercise its innate right of self-determination ..."

Gen. Paik Sun Yup, ROK Army chief of staff, is recalled from the United States June 7, where he is touring military facilities.

Eisenhower makes public June 7 a letter that he had sent to Rhee a day earlier. In it he urges Rhee to accept the truce and use "political and other methods" besides war to unify Korea. He offers to negotiate a mutual defense treaty with Rhee similar to those the United States already has with Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

June 8 — U.N. and communist delegates at Panmunjom sign an agreement on the exchange of prisoners, the last major item on the agenda. However, a truce cannot be settled yet because the communists insist that the line upon which a demilitarized zone will be based, which was agreed on in 1951, must be changed to reflect combat developments since then.

The prisoner agreement will send those prisoners who want to return home back to their countries within 60 days of a truce being signed.

The Reds hold 13,000 allies, mostly South Koreans. The United Nations holds 73,000 North Koreans and 5,000 Chinese who want to be repatriated.

The United Nations also has 32,180 North Koreans and 14,200 Chinese who do not want to return home. Sweden, Switzerland, Poland, Czechoslovakia and India will be on a Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission which will oversee those prisoners who do not want to go home. The commission will take care of the prisoners for 120 days.

During the first 90 days of the armistice, communist "explaining" teams of five, but no more than seven per 1,000 prisoners, can meet with individual prisoners refusing repatriation to tell them why they should go home. Representatives from the neutral commission and the United Nations will also be present at every meeting to ensure force or coercion isn't used.

A prisoner who decides to go home

must have the approval of a majority of the neutral nations.

At the end of 90 days, a major political conference will be held to decide how to handle those prisoners who have not changed their minds. If no agreement has been reached at the end of 30 days, the prisoners will be released "from the prisoner-of-war status to civilian status."

The commission will help former prisoners who choose to settle in neutral nations get settled there. The released prisoners still have the choice of changing their minds about going home. If any do, the country in which each settles must take care of sending him back to North Korea or China.

June 8-10 — Rhee refuses Eisenhower's mutual defense treaty offer on the day the prisoner exchange agreement is signed, calling it "unsatisfactory."

The ROK National Assembly votes 149-0 June 8 to reject an armistice that doesn't result in Korea unification. A resolution calls upon the South Korean military forces to take "all necessary measures" to "prevent another communist aggression" (and) be prepared for a northern advance."

Switzerland states June 9 that its troops may not go ashore in Korea because of threats from members of the ROK government. But on June 10, after reassurances by the United

States, the Swiss change their minds.

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru says June 10 that India cannot serve as chief of the neutral nations committee if the South Korean military opposes a landing of Indian troops.

On June 10 Adm. Arthur W. Radford, recently selected by Eisenhower to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visits Rhee after a flight from Formosa. Details of the meeting are unknown.

June 10-11 — On June 10 the Chinese stage their largest attacks since 1951. Their objective is a bulge in the U.N. main line of resistance that begins about three miles northeast of Kumhwa, extends northeast to the hills below Kumsong and then runs east for about 10 miles. Then the line drops southeast for about 13 miles to just northwest of Heartbreak Ridge.

The bulge is held by the ROK II Corps between IX Corps to the west and X Corps on the right. Five divisions hold the line across the rugged hills, which interfere greatly with communications on the line. Facing them are three Chinese armies.

A fierce barrage in the evening precedes the attack. When the onslaught comes, it's carried out by forces ranging in size from battalion to regiment.

The Reds overrun outposts of the ROK 5th Infantry Division and capture hills 10 miles northwest of Heartbreak Ridge, along with a portion of the MLR. The ROK 3rd ID turns one of its regiments over to the 5th.

Counterattacks against the captured hills throughout that night and all day June 11 are unsuccessful. The Chinese quickly add more men to blunt the ROK thrusts. The situation isn't good for the South Koreans at the end of June 11.



Commentary: There's beauty beneath the burqa

Pvt. Terri Rorke

11th Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Braided hair, black eye liner, jingling bracelets and henna-clad fingers of Afghan women are not seen by many soldiers, simply because of the Muslim culture - women are always hiding under the burqa.

Soldiers routinely conduct village searches, which entail searching residents. The soldiers normally ask to have all women and children go to one room while the area is being searched. Because of past incidents where women hid weapons under their burqas, female Army searchers are more and more commonly being added

to the passenger list for ground assault convoys on operations.

When I was tasked to go on a mission recently, as a journalist, I thought my primary job would be to take pictures and set up interviews.

On the last couple of operations, though, I was needed to help out with searching females.

"Peace. I am a woman. I have to search you," I said in Pashto as I entered the dark rooms taking off my helmet and sun glasses to show the scared and innocent I was a female.

The 2- to 3-year olds usually started crying and they would latch on to their mother's beaded burqas. Despite the language barrier, I

would ask them through gestures to stand up and spread their arms.

Some looked directly in my eyes as I searched them, while others tried to hide underneath their robes. Some were shy and giggled as I patted down on their shoulders. They would pull out metal containers with beads from their dresses sequined with colors of blue, red, purple, pink and neon variations.

Of course I had my camera with me. I wanted to take pictures, but I didn't want to upset any of them. They were beautiful, yet so hidden. It is something I don't understand as an American and as someone who doesn't follow the Muslim lifestyle in the Middle East and central Asia.

Although I didn't totally understand what they were saying, I knew they were trying to tell me, "See, I wasn't hiding anything," after I was finished.

A couple of times I met women who looked just like Russians. I asked through gestures if I could take their picture. "No, no," they would reply in Pashto.

I wished I was a fly on the wall that could just snap away and I would then be able to show the world their beauty. But all I could do was say thanks for cooperating and I would leave them in their dark huts where their beauty remains to be seen strictly by their families, and maybe a female military journalist from time to time.



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Feedback

Fort Gordon is adding a few new businesses to post. What else would you like to see at Fort Gordon?



"I would like to see a 24 hour restaurant, eatery, coffee house or something like that in the 93rd, 513th, GRSOC, end of post."

Lt. Col. Karen Bennett
116th Military Intelligence Group



"I'd like to see the paintball course more tactical or perhaps a softball complex."

Staff Sgt. Chris Osmond
Company D, 201st Military Intelligence Battalion



"I just like the idea of a 24 hour restaurant coming to post."

Kimberly Grainger
Family member



"I would like to see a 24 hour restaurant for all the soldiers who work in 93rd Signal Brigade area."

Maj. Dawn Ross
67th Signal Battalion



"I think Fort Gordon could use either an ice skating rink or a skate park."

Pvt. Adam Schuessler
Company C, 551st Signal Battalion

Tips for safe summer grilling

By Herb Greene
Defense Commissary Agency

The acrid smoke wafting across the neighbor's fence; the sizzle and aroma of a thick steak hitting a hot grill; the sounds of laughter and delight as the backyard chef yells, "Come and get it!" These culinary assaults on the senses are a dead giveaway that the grilling season is upon us. What to do?

Head to the commissary for charcoal, lighter fluid, paper plates, napkins, soft drinks, snacks and, of course, the great selection of meats, fish, poultry, fresh produce and other things to barbecue.

Don't have a grill? That's not a problem. At most installations, exchanges will have all types of grills ranging from the small simple grill for a couple of bucks to the considerably more expensive and impressive propane-powered, multi-level grills with electronic ignition and a set of gauges that would stop a flight engineer in his tracks. Either way, it's about the food and the technique, not the hardware.

Don't know how to grill? Again, it's not a problem. Just ask your gourmet chef next door neighbor for some words of wisdom or check out a self-

help book from your library. In the meantime, here are some helpful tips to make the grilling experience more enjoyable:

- Place the grill outside at least ten feet away from the house and anything that can burn.

- When lighting charcoal briquettes using charcoal lighter fluid, apply the fluid and let it soak in a minute or two. When using an electric charcoal starter, be certain to stand on dry ground before plugging it in. It will be hot after use so place it where no one can touch it.

- Never use gasoline to light charcoal.

- Prevent cross-contamination of harmful bacteria by keeping raw meat separate from cooked meat. Do not use the same plate or utensils for raw and cooked meat.

- Cook hamburgers and other ground meats until it is well done and the center is no longer pink. Because of potential serious bacteria contamination, the heyday of the juicy rare burger with a pink center is over.



- Experiment with sauces and marinades. Marinating or basting will add a deep, flavorful taste to meats. Be careful to avoid cross-contamination: Do not baste meat on the grill with marinade that was used on uncooked meat. Baste during the last 10 minutes of cooking to maximize flavor.

- Plan on one to two cups of marinade for every two pounds of food. You want enough marinade to completely surround the food.

- Try grilling vegetables. Get unique taste sensations by grill-

ing ordinary vegetables basted in sauces and sprinkled with dry herbs.

- Tenderize pork chops and chicken by microwaving them for a couple of minutes and soaking them in a barbecue sauce for about 30 minutes.

- Try using wood chips to change the flavor of grilled meats, fish and chicken.

- The best thickness for steaks is one-inch. As for fish, have the fillets cut from one to one and a half inches thick—

anything thinner will dry out too quickly. Pork chops should also be at least one to one and a half inches thick—this cut is ready when the meat is no longer pink along the bone and when the juices run clear.

- Try grilling corn on the cob. Wrap the ear of corn in foil along with a pat of butter and a touch of barbecue sauce. Place the corn on the grill for about seven to 10 minutes.

- Don't overcrowd the grill. If you do, the foods will just steam and not cook properly.

- Prevent scorched food by extinguishing fire flare-ups with a clean spray bottle of water kept near the grill.

Remember two things to ensure a safe cookout. The "danger zone" for growth of harmful bacteria is 40 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit, so keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot and use them within two hours or throw them out.

Hand washing is a necessity for safe food preparation; wash hands thoroughly before handling food and frequently throughout the cooking process.

Now you have a head start on a safe, successful, fun and delicious grilling season. Oh, and don't forget to invite your neighbors.

Driving in rain

Losing control of your car on wet pavement is a frightening experience. Unfortunately, it can happen unless you take preventive measures.

You can prevent skids by driving slowly and carefully, especially on curves. Steer and brake with a light touch. When you need to stop or slow, do not brake hard or lock the wheels and risk a skid. Maintain mild pressure on the brake pedal.

If you do find yourself in a skid, remain calm, ease your foot off the gas, and carefully steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go. For cars without anti-lock brakes, avoid using your brakes. This procedure, known as "steering into the skid," will bring the back end of your car in line with the front. If your car has ABS, brake firmly as you "steer into the skid."

While skids on wet pavement may be frightening, hydroplaning is completely nerve-racking. Hydroplaning happens when the water in front of your tires builds up faster than your car's weight can push it out of the way.

The water pressure causes your car to rise up and slide on a thin layer of water between

your tires and the road. At this point, your car can be completely out of contact with the road, and you are in danger of skidding or drifting out of your lane, or even off the road.

To avoid hydroplaning, keep your tires properly inflated, maintain good tread on your tires and replace them when necessary, slow down when roads are wet, and stay away

from puddles. Try to drive in the tire tracks left by the cars in front of you.

If you find yourself hydroplaning, do not brake or turn suddenly. This could throw your car into a skid. Ease your foot off the gas until the car slows and you can feel the road again.

If you need to brake, do it gently with light pumping ac-

tions. If your car has anti-lock brakes, then brake normally; the car's computer will mimic a pumping action, when necessary.

A defensive driver adjusts his or her speed to the wet road conditions in time to avoid having to use any of these measures.

(Courtesy the Fort Gordon Safety Office.)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy Wamble

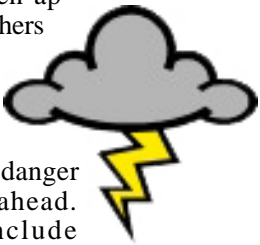
Yard appeal

Terry Smith (center), Fort Gordon deputy garrison commander, presented a certificate of appreciation and gift certificates to the post yard of the month winners. The yard of the month winners for May are: Maglin Court—Lt. Col. William and Jenny Garner; Gordon Terrace—Staff Sgt. Andre and Angela Taylor with children Alishia, An'trovius and Andre Jr.; Gordon Terrace—Staff Sgt. Kevin and Regina Kelley; Olive Terrace—Sgt. 1st Class Bernard and Elizabeth Couture with daughter Maria; and McNair Terrace—Capt. Robert Lentner.

Thunderstorm and lightning season strikes into full swing

It's that time of the year again when thunder and lightning are an almost daily occurrence. Some thunderstorms can be seen approaching while others hit without warning.

It is important to learn and recognize the danger signs and plan ahead. Some signs include dark, towering or threatening clouds, a sudden increase in the wind, and distant lightning and thunder.



Fort Gordon personnel over the past years have been involved in lightning ground strikes during field training exercises. Thunderstorms were in progress, and these were not isolated lightning strikes.

Lightning induced ground voltage differences are much higher close to the strike and lessen outward. For this reason, Lightning Protection Code Personal Protective Guidance recommends the following:

- Seek dense woods avoiding isolated trees.

- Seek buildings and shelters in low areas, avoiding buildings and shelters in

unprotected areas.

- If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter immediately.

- If you are hopelessly isolated in an exposed area and you feel your hair standing on end, indicating that lightning is about to strike, drop to your knees, making yourself the smallest target possible. Do not lie on or place your hands on the ground.

For more safety tips, contact the Installation Safety Office at 791-2906/7233.

(Courtesy the Fort Gordon Safety Office.)

Signals from Mesopotamia

Thunderbird Brigade provides communication support at Tallil

2nd Lt. Sean E. Passmore
11th Signal Brigade

In the shadows of the Ziggurat of Ur-Nammu, birthplace of Abraham and the cradle of all civilization, lay Tallil Air Base and the home of nearly 150 soldiers of Company B, 63rd Signal Battalion.

The 63rd Signal Battalion, normally a subordinate of the 93rd Signal Brigade, is currently part of the 11th Signal Brigade from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and what has become the largest tactical communications network ever to be assembled on a battlefield. Co. B provides communication support for the entire air base, which houses ap-

proximately 12,000 soldiers, airmen and Marines.

"We're providing over 120 phone lines right now and about 100 [secure internet and non-secure internet] lines to about a dozen different headquarters," said Lt. Col. John Rutt, commander of the 63rd Signal Battalion, originally from Columbus Junction, Iowa.

The soldiers of Co. B were some of the first to occupy Tallil Air Base, which was occupied by Iraqi military forces only one day prior to their arrival.

"They captured the general and he was an [enemy prisoner of war] for a while; they brought him back on base and he showed people where all of the infrastructure was," Rutt said.

Rutt chose the medical clinic to set up his battalion headquarters and Co. B operations cell. "This was an operating TMC probably two days before we got here," Rutt said. "We had [explosive ordnance disposal] check it out and combat intelligence got teams to come in and go through everything and then we got to occupy it."

Even after EOD and the military intelligence teams cleared the building there was still much work to be done before Co. B could call the old Red Crescent building home.

"We had a [chemical-biological] team come through and check the hospital for bio-hazards. We had to



Photo by 2nd Lt. Sean Passmore

B Co., 63rd Signal Battalion soldiers installed power, communications and air conditioning in an old Iraqi medical clinic, which now serves as their home at Tallil Airbase in Iraq. The facility also houses the chapel, and serves as the battalion headquarters and network operations building.

clean the bio-hazards out and then bleach the floors," Rutt said. "We had to wire [the building] up for telephones and LAN connections; this is all our wire, all our power. There wasn't any in here; that was all turned off."

After nearly a month on the air base the soldiers of Co. B are reaping the benefits of their hard work.

"We have it made here," said Rutt, who has two other companies living in tents in other parts of Iraq. "Almost all of our [Co. B] soldiers are living in old Iraqi buildings that we've turned into barracks. These living facilities are as good as they get in Iraq," Rutt said.

Many of the Co. B soldiers spend their spare time reading, lifting weights that they brought from home or practicing their religion.

"The main source of morale for me is church and daily devotionals," said Spc. Billy Tackett, a personnel administrative specialist, from Redding, Calif.

One of the soldiers' favorite activities is watching movies. Pfc. Willie Elliot, a signal support systems spe-

cialist, from Fayetteville, N.C., organized a weekly movie night.

"We put out a movie poll to see what everybody wants to watch," said Elliot, who plays the movies on the projector normally used for nightly briefings. "We have room for about 40 people; they bring their own refreshments and chairs."

Elliot takes little credit for his efforts. "It's all about taking care of soldiers," he said.

The 63rd, although traditionally not part of the 11th Signal Brigade, operates like any of the other four battalions in the Thunderbird Brigade.

"They are our higher headquarters; they do everything for us that any higher headquarters would do for any other unit. It's no different from being the 86th, the 504th, the 40th, or the 54th," Rutt said.

He added that the data equipment, satellite, and tropospheric scatter assets the 11th has augmented him with have been a tremendous help to his mission. "It ties it all together; we wouldn't be able to do the mission without the long haul tropo and satellite."

When asked why his battalion was chosen to augment the 11th Signal Brigade Rutt stated that he had very little to do with that decision. "The Army does that at much higher levels. We were the right battalion equipment-wise and readiness-wise."

Rutt said that the decision to place his battalion under the 11th didn't come as a surprise. The unit trained extensively for their mission at Tallil Air Base.

"We knew it was coming and we had plenty of time to get our equipment ready. We had also done a big train-up in December so we had zero training that we had to do when we got notified [in January]," Rutt said.

"We did a lot of training for this mission, a ton of it. When we got here in theater we did a [data and switch exercise]; we got to configure all of our equipment exactly like we were going to when we came into Iraq. That was absolutely the most positive thing we could have done to prepare ourselves for this mission."

(Passmore is the 11th Signal Brigade public affairs officer.)



Photo by 2nd Lt. Sean Passmore

Nearly all of the B Co. soldiers are now living in old Iraqi buildings that they have transformed into offices and barracks.

Special benefits for disabled military retirees

by Laura Paul
Army Retirement Services

Certain disabled military retirees may be eligible for Combat-Related Special Compensation effective May 31.

CRSC was enacted by Congress as part of the Fiscal Year 2003 Defense Authorization Act.

To be eligible, a military retiree must have at least 20 years of active duty or a combination of active duty and Reserve points equaling 20 years of full-time active duty (7200 points).

The retiree must also have either a disability rating of 10 percent or higher associated with award of a Purple Heart; or a disability rating of 60 percent or higher for other illnesses or injuries attributed to combat, combat-oriented training or hazardous duty.

CRSC is not granted automatically. Retirees who believe they are eligible must apply for the benefit, officials said.

CRSC payments will equal the amount of Veterans Administration compensation received for Purple Heart-related disabilities or combat-related disabilities minus any additional compensation received for dependents.

CRSC is separate from a

special compensation program enacted several years ago known as "Severely Disabled Special Compensation," or SDSC.

Eligible retirees cannot receive both benefits; they must choose either CRSC or SDSC, officials said.

When an Army retiree applies for the benefit, an Army team will review the application and documentation submitted to determine which disabilities, if any, are combat-related, personnel officials said.

Retirees will be informed of the outcome of the Army's review, officials said. If denied, the retiree may reapply later if additional, clarifying or new documentation becomes available; or the decision can be appealed.

Payments for qualified retirees will accrue beginning June 1 with first payments possible on July 1. Those eligible must apply using DD Form 2860.

The application form and instructions for where to send it are available at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/crsc/>. Retired soldiers can also submit through Army installation Retirement Services officers.

Army retirees with questions about the form or benefit may call (866) 281-3254 to leave a message for the office that is reviewing the applications.

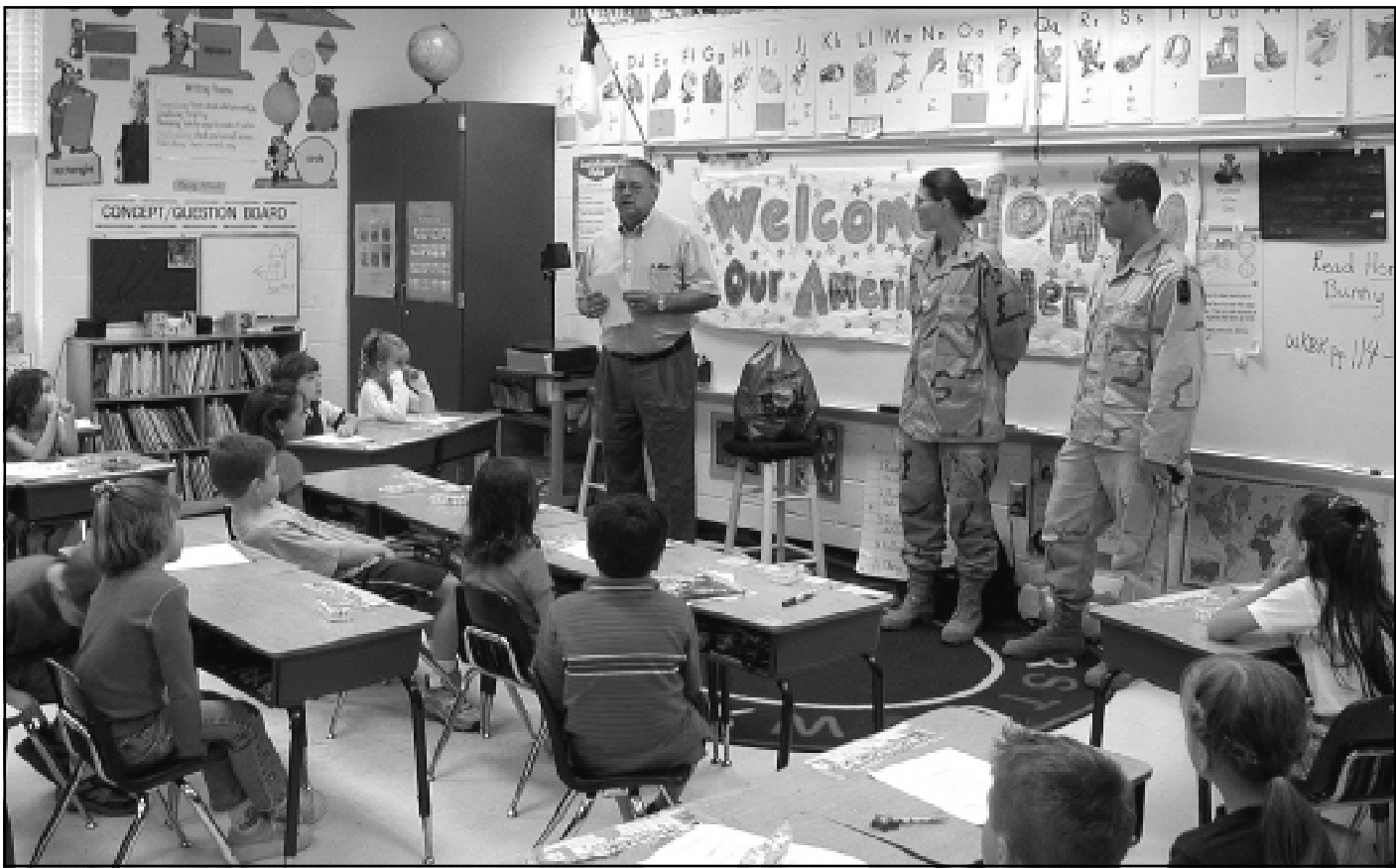


Photo by Sgt. Brian Lamar

Soldierly education

John Iwancio, senior civilian advisor for the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, explains his tour in Iraq to students at Westminster Day School in Augusta on May 22. Spc. Leslie Pearson and Spc. Timothy Crawford, also from the 513th, demonstrated how to eat a Meals Ready to Eat, and answered questions about soldiering and being deployed.



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Arlo Abrahamson

Equipment Operator Patrick Jenkins, a Seabee with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, guards his fellow Seabees as they rebuild the Sarabadi bridge on the Tigris River near Al Hillah, Iraq, May 26, 2003. NMCB-133 is working to build bridges damaged during the war so that Iraqi citizens can use them once again. Operation Iraqi Freedom is the multinational coalition effort to liberate the Iraqi people, eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and end the regime of Saddam Hussein.

Soldiers work to ensure Iraqi girls' safety on road to school

Rick Scavetta
Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD – Each morning at about 10 a.m., tankers from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment walk a few blocks from their checkpoint at the Ministry of Agriculture to Shardeeya Industrial High School. School officials fear local thugs called wilid shawri, or “street boys,” are trying to grab young women after class is dismissed.

“We heard girls were getting kidnapped, so we come down to protect them,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Crosby. The 3rd Infantry Division, which fought its way to Baghdad, now patrols the streets of the Iraqi capital like police. The soldiers’ presence at the school is more of a friendly courtesy rather than a response to actual kidnappings, said Capt. Mark Madden. “They often exaggerate the truth to get us to respond,” Madden said. “We don’t know

if it’s true. We don’t have any confirmed cases.” Some Iraqis believe criminals are forcing the girls into brothels for U.S. troops, an unfounded assumption. Soldiers in Baghdad are briefed on that perception. Other times, girls may have run off with a boyfriend but claim they were stolen to save face among their families. Meanwhile, Company C troops have adopted schools as a humanitarian project, Crosby said. Already, they delivered

supplies to three schools in their neighborhood, called Andalus by locals. At the girls’ high school, the troops contracted local workers to spruce up the school walls with a fresh coat of paint. During the war, the girls did not attend classes, said English teacher Isra Hussein. They returned to school May 3. Both teachers and students are glad to have the soldiers visit. “They are coming to protect us,” Hussein said. “It’s necessary for security.”

‘Deep Selection’ loses plot, wins fan

Walter R. Andrae, Ed.D.
Special to the Signal

“Deep Selection,” a book by retired Lt. Cmdr. Robert V. Ricard, U.S. Coast Guard, appears at first to be a murder mystery. In this mystery the author delves into the working relationships of professionals: commanders and subordinates, police officials, and doctors and patients. Lateral or peer relationships seem to work well, while hierarchical relationships tend to be flawed. He has fun with America’s self-imposed hang-ups on what is politically correct and on the muzzling morass that passes for a self-indulgent vision of social progress. Military courtesy and professional insults come in for special explanations, emphasizing again and again that rank has its privileges, one of which is ignoring its re-

sponsibilities. And what passes for bad manners is often nothing less than a misuse of authority. What does it take to ruin a military career? Following the author on this track provides pithy entertainment and a few answers. How about a bad marriage, a marriage, or no marriage, and an authoritative command figure that believes he knows best how to conduct yourself in any particular situation? What if a subordinate doesn’t conform to these command driven expectations? There is the power of a command referral for a psychiatric evaluation at the “Bethesda Hilton.” The operating description of this military quasi-penal colony reminds the reviewer of Ken Kesey’s book, “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.” To be sure, the comparisons are only coincidental, but what a magnificent tool for

punishing subordinates. The author’s sense of humor comes to the fore in a character named Uncle Bob, a retired Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Uncle Bob’s comments on the brass, professional safety, abuse of authority, and underwhelming cowardice in the face of a politically inspired inquisition - a possible motive for murder - are pleasantly delivered. ‘Disneyland East,’ Marine Corps Headquarters, comes in for special attention from a Marine lieutenant colonel who’s been there and has had that done to him, too. It is a breathtaking performance, and quite possibly the high point of the novel. By the time the reviewer reached the middle of the story, the murder investigation was all but forgotten. Who cares if a malicious member of Congress gets whacked? But comparisons between POWs in Vietnam

and the “patients” at the Bethesda Hilton are something else again. Treatment and special indignities reserved for occupants sent to the “back room” blur the line between patient care and patient insult. Perhaps more to the point are the interviews with the evaluating psychiatrists. They are strongly reminiscent of the KGB questioning techniques in Darkness at Noon. “You’re here, so you must have done something wrong.” Like the second-hand smoke the author mentions, the threat is always just below the horizon. But it is there. Using a civilian murder investigation to look at aspects of military life was an interesting stroke of insight. Incidentally, the murder does get solved, although there is room for improvement in the lives of most of the participants. Ignore the murder and enjoy the book.

A “Q-beam” for Christ

Chaplain (Capt.) Doug Lax

Just a few months ago, some friends of mine were joking with me about how I did not get a deer this past deer season. One of the fellows made a profound statement as to what my problem was. He said, “Chaplain do you know what your problem is...you didn’t use a big enough “Q-Beam.” Among white-tail deer hunters, that is a back-handed joke. It means that I didn’t cheat by poaching. Allow me to explain what a “Q-Beam” is. A Q-Beam is a high-powered, battery operated, handheld, spotlight. A poacher uses a Q-Beam to “spot-light” a deer. The deer looks directly at the light but cannot see outside of the light. Thus the deer’s reaction is to freeze its position and just stand there hoping that the light will move on. The poacher, predicting this reaction, uses the Q-Beam to freeze the deer’s motion for a better shot. This is illegal because it takes unfair advantage of a deer’s natural reaction to any predator and contradicts the “fair chase” principal of hunting. Have you ever thought how simple and yet powerful light can be. Light can be used for a source of im-

proved vision. Light can be used as a source for heat. Light is so radically different from darkness that it penetrates total darkness. Jesus Christ wants us to be that kind of different; penetrating, insightful, giving light. Jesus says of light, “...Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16) Folks, in straight talk to you, we as followers of Christ are to be different. We as followers of Christ are to make a difference in a dark world that does not know Him. It will not be easy. It will not be lovely at times. We may even get hurt, too. Have confidence that what God promised in verse 16 of Matthew 5 is that God is at work in you if you do your part. In conclusion, we remember all soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who were a thousand points of light on D-Day, June 6, 1941. If not for their making a difference in our world, I dare say we would not be where we are today. I’m Chaplain Doug Lax with “Just A Thought From God!” Be a light unto the world that you go into. Make a difference wherever you go by bettering people’s lives.

Ambassadors

From Page 1

Volunteers must have a National Agency Check clearance, officials said. Ambassadors and cyberguides will be trained prior to assuming their eCybermission duties. Ambassadors must be willing to contribute 15-20 hours a month between August and November. Cyberguides should have a science, math or technology background and be willing to work two shifts of one to two hours per week. To be an ambassador, visit www.ecybermission.com, e-mail ambassadorprogram@ecybermission.com. To volunteer as a cyberguide, visit www.ecybermission.com, or e-mail missioncontrol@ecybermission.com.

Community Events

ArtScape Camp

The Greater Augusta Arts Council is producing an eight-week Art Camp this summer for children living in Fort Gordon housing communities. They are partnering with the Housing Authority and Richmond County Recreation and Parks to produce a camp offering exposure to music, dance drama and visual arts.

Last summer, some campers learned how to play the violin in two weeks.

Russel Joel Brown will be teaching choral music.

Volunteers are needed to come to camp and assist in the classrooms.

Volunteer for a week or two or more. Volunteers may work one day a week for eight weeks, but the camp would prefer not to have to change out each day. With 100 campers the program really wants each teacher to have a 'helper' in the room.

Volunteers are needed through **Aug. 1** from 9 a.m to 3 p.m. at Ursula Collins School. The camp will be closed the 4th of July week (June 30-July 4) and July 21 - Aug. 1. The camp will be at May Park-Walton Way at 4th Street. For more information, call Brenda Durant at 826-4702 or e-mail: Brenda@augustaarts.com.

Family child care provider

Registration for new applicants to become a Family Child Care Provider will be held **June 16-20** from 9 a.m. - noon, daily in Building 45400 next to the Youth Services building.

Training will start July 11 at 9 a.m. Applicants must reside in government quarters and all training is provided at no cost to family members. Child care will also be provided.

For more information, call 791-3993/4440.

SMA scholarships

The Sergeants Major Association of Fort Gordon is offering scholarships for the graduating class of 2003. Applicant must be a legal dependent of an active, reserve, retired, or deceased military person living in the CSRA. Applications may be obtained from any command sergeant major or sergeant major. The application deadline is **June 24**.

For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Alfred Simmons at 791-7985.

Recruit the recruiter

The Recruit the Recruiter Team from Headquarters, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Ky., will brief on the challenges, benefits and opportunities of becoming a recruiter.

This briefing in no way obligates you for recruiting duty. A personal interview can be conducted by the team following the briefing to determine initial qualifications on all NCOs interested in applying.

Briefings will be held **June 17 and 18** in Olmstead Hall at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. on June 17, and 1 and 3 p.m. on June 18.

For more information go to www.usarec.army.mil or call 800-223-3735 ext 61028.

CMU

Central Michigan University's College of Extended Learning at Fort Gordon offers a master of science in administration degree with concentrations in information resource management, health services administration and human resource administration. Registration for classes starting in July (Term V) will be held through **June 6**.

Classes being offered are: financial aspects of health services; system analysis and design; environments in administration; and integrative analysis.

For additional information, call 798-5739 or visit the CMU office in the Fort Gordon Education Center, Bldg. 21606, Barnes Avenue.

Signal Ball

The 143rd Signal Anniversary Ball is **Thursday** at the Gordon Club. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. and dinner begins at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$18 for E-5/GS-5 and below and \$25 for E-6/GS-6 and above. The guest speaker is Lt. Gen. Peter M. CuvIELLO.

For more information, call Sgt.1st Class Christopher Dempsey at 791-1761.

Dental Assistant Program

The American Red Cross and DENTAC have teamed up to bring the Dental Assistant Program to Fort Gordon

The program is 40 hours per week for six months. Candidates must be 18 or older with military I.D. card and have 100 hours of volunteer service with Red Cross.

The intensive training requires commitment. The result is very marketable job skills. For more information, call 787-6311.

Mosquito spraying

Pest Control will be fogging **weekdays** for mosquitoes as needed prior to 7:30 a.m. from now through October. The regular scheduled days are Tuesdays and Thursdays. Days may be added as needed for mosquito control. For more information, call 791-4206.

Library programs

A Summer Reading Program called, *Beat the Heat, READ!* is **June 16 through Aug. 4** on Mondays from 11 a.m. to noon for children 2 - 13.

Woodworth Library summer reading program is **Tuesday** at 11 a.m. Magical entertainer David Ginn will present "Ocean of Magic."

There will be a volunteer meeting for all individuals who would like to volunteer during the Summer Reading Program from 11a.m -noon, **Wednesday**.

For more information on any of these programs, call 791-7323.

Ed center closed

The Education Center will hold the Annual College Graduation **Wednesday** from 2 - 3 p.m. in Alexander Hall.

The Education and career Development Center will be closed for the event, and testing services will be closed from 1 - 4:30 p.m.

Normal duty hours resume **Thursday** at 7:30 a.m.

Concert

U.S. Army Entertainment and Fort Gordon Morale Welfare and Recreation present Ashanti with special guest Mr. Cheeks, **June 27**.

Gates open at 7 p.m., concert begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the gate, and available at all CSRA Papa John's Pizza, Pyramid Music on Broad Street & K-Mart Plaza, Culpepper Records in Thomson, Quality Records in Aiken, and on Fort Gordon at PX Customer Service, Gordon Lanes, The Gordon Club, Aladdin Travel, and Fort Gordon Federal Credit Union.

For more information visit fortgordon.com, or call 791-6779.

Fort to fort swim

Registrations are now being accepted for the 13th Annual Fort-to-Fort Swim to be held **June 21** at NAS Pensacola. Swimmers must be at least 14 years of age and in good health. The entry fee is \$20. Registrations must be received by Morale Welfare and Recreation Events Office no later than 2 p.m. June 17, and the race is limited to the first 300 entries.

Participants must arrive at Barrancas Beach from 8 – 9:15 a.m and will be transported by shuttle bus to the pier at 9:30 a.m. From there, participants will take a short boat ride to the starting line at Fort Pickens. The swim will start at 10:30 a.m. Swimmers cannot go directly to Fort Pickens for the start.

There will be no race day registration. Awards will be presented to male and female finishers, three deep in each age category. All entrants will receive a T-shirt. The event is open to all military and civilian personnel.

Registration forms can be downloaded from www.mwr-pcola.navy.mil/current/swim/ft2ft2002.htm or picked up at the NAS Gym and Fitness Center, or call the Office of Special Events Director at 452-3806 ext. 340, or the Aquatics Director 452-4392.

CPR and first aid training

The American Red Cross offers CPR and First Aid Training on **June 17 and 19**, 6 - 9 p.m. at Community Life Building. Attendance at both evenings is required for certification. Cost is \$36. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call 787-6311.

Car wash

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 116th Military Intelligence Group will have a car wash **June 20** from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. across the street from Burger King.

Armor All Protectant will be used on tires and dashboard if desired.

For more information, call 791-0969.

Mass choir

Celebration mass choir will have its monthly rehearsal on **June 28** at Signal Theater. The rehearsal will be from 1 - 3:30 p.m. All members and anyone wishing to be a part of the community mass choir are asked to be there.

For more information, call Gene Beverly at 787-5170.

Golf tournament

The Adolphous W. Greely Chapter of the Signal Corps Regimental Association will host its Golf Tourney (Scramble) **June 20**.

Entry cost is \$40 per person. Each team will consist of four players. Lone entries will be paired by the committee.

For more information or to register, call Gordon Lakes Golf Course at 791-6854/2433.

FGRA

Fort Gordon recreation area and Strom Thurmond Lake offers lodging, campsites, pavilion, picnic area, boat/RV storage, camping equipment and more.

For more information on the recreation area or reserving part of the area visit www.fortgordon.com or call 541-1057.

Fishing derby

A kid's fishing derby is **Saturday** at Claypit Lakes. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and fishing begins at 8 a.m.

Trophies will be awarded to first, second and third place and in each of four age groups for the most pounds of fish caught.

The first 300 kids receive a free T-shirt. Each participant receives free hot dogs and sodas.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class John Landrum at 791-2192.

Youth services

Youth services offers summer fun camps Monday-Friday through Aug. 13.

Fees are based on combined family income and are due at registration.

For more information, call 791-6500 or 7575.

Golf classes

Gordon Lakes Golf Course offers junior golf classes for children 9 - 15.

Kids will learn the rules and etiquette of the game and follow-up with a four-hole tournament on the last day.

The first class is **June 17, 19, 24 and 26** from 9 - 11 a.m. The second class is **July 15, 17, 22 and 24** from 9 - 11 a.m.

For more information, call 791-2433.

Riding lessons

English and Western riding lessons available at Hilltop Riding Stables for ages six and older.

Group lessons for three or more people are \$15 per person, per lesson on Thursdays. Private lessons are \$25 per person, per lesson, and semi-private lessons for two people are \$20 per person, per lesson on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Call 791-4864 for details.

Fort Gordon Report



The newest edition of the "Fort Gordon Report" premieres **Monday** and includes the following stories:

- Soldiers from the 201st MI BN Return to Fort Gordon
- JROTC Summer Camp
- MWR Beach Blast

The "Fort Gordon Report" and "Army Newswatch" alternate weeks on *Charter Cable Channel 13*: Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 a.m., noon, 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

You can catch the latest "Fort Gordon Report" on *Comcast Cable Channel 66* on: Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 9 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 a.m.

The newest edition of "Army Newswatch" will premiere **June 16**.

The "Fort Gordon Report" is the Signal Center's official television news program and is produced on post by the Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office and the Training and Support Center.

G-6, Signal hold annual international conference

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
93rd Public Affairs Office

More than 30 representatives from 29 countries participated in the eighth Latin American-Caribbean Conference, May 18-23, hosted by the U.S. Army South G-6 and the 93rd Signal Brigade.

Col. Daniel Gerstein, U.S. Army South G-6 (Chief Information Officer) and 93rd Signal Brigade brigade commander, welcomed the delegates. Brig. Gen. Gregory Premo, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command chief information officer, was a key speaker.

The theme of this year's conference was "Interoperability Among Regional Partners." Key objectives were to discuss interoperability among regional partners; promote dialog between countries' signal officers; standardize cross-border communications to facilitate better inter-country communications to maximize law enforcement procedures, humanitarian, and disaster relief efforts; and to incorporate command and control, communications, and computer discussions into the upcoming Conference of American Armies Commanders' Forum.

During the course of the conference, the national representatives were divided into three sub-regional groups to discuss equipment, procedures and training necessary for building interoperability within a coalition. The exercise made use of real world scenarios to drive the national delegates to arrive at conclusions concerning C4 interoperability requirements and capabilities.

Scenarios included communicating with cross-border neighbors to facilitate joint coordination efforts during a hurricane disaster relief operation, a humanitarian aid operation, and a counter-insurgency operation.

The representatives within each group were challenged to maximize the use of their countries' communication technology at strategic, operational, and tactical levels during coalition exercises. All delegates expressed their enthusiasm to have the opportunity to work together at the conference to establish standard, cross-border communications.

During breaks in the conference, participants enjoyed displays of current technologi-

cal equipment provided by L3 Communications, Datapath and Harris Corporation.

All participants agreed the Latin American-Caribbean Conference was an excellent opportunity for countries to exchange vital information about their communications equipment and to work toward better cross-border communications.

(Right) Brig. Gen. Gregory Premo, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command chief information officer, was a key speaker at the eighth Latin American-Caribbean Conference. (Below) During breaks, LATAM-CARIB participants viewed displays of communications equipment like this FALCON II HF radio.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo



“While I am waiting...”

While I am waiting... It seems when time roams on to an anniversary of his departure, it slows down to a snail's slither. It just takes forever to go forward. The one month, the six month, the seventh month, for some of my friends it has been a year, or longer, and the anniversary of the departure is the same.

That day just creeps so slowly. So many articles around Mother's Day talked about how, as military spouses, we send our loved ones off for a month, or a remote tour for a year, not on a business trip for a week. And how we survive the loneliness, because yes, we are survivors, and as another anniversary approaches for me I take stock in the reality I am a survivor.

I gathered some strength from people around me lately. Survivors. My friends are strong. I was impressed how they handled the monumental

events of the past few weeks as all sorts of "anniversary" dates were dotting the calendar.

They held together graduations, which if you listen to the radio around here, are life-marking moments worth, if nothing else, a bauble or ring.

It probably had a greater impact this year because the young adults I know had to face the moment without their other parent.

They were young adults far before graduation in dealing with the deployment, but not too many people noticed.

They grew up over the past few months in ways other children do not have to deal with.

I saw my young adult friends helping baby-sit for families in our unit. They jumped in and did the chore without being asked.

They have helped haul, lift, mow grass and do other things to assist spouses of deployed sol-

diers or friends of their families. They were there for their mothers, and most of them did the right things.

A couple of my young adult friends did struggle, showing they were growing up and dealing with the multitude of emotions that a deployment creates.

It made for interesting conversations with them. They were so grown up in how they were handling themselves.

For some of my young friends the deployment affected their grades. And to my pleasant surprise, they are being accountable for their schoolwork.

For some of them, the emotions were overriding, and they are only now coming to terms with the fact that their dad is gone, their mom is gone,

and what that means when you are grown up.

So the young adults and their parent faced graduation. Together as parent and child, or alone as supermom or dad, the diners to celebrate the graduate were held.

Family and friends attended the graduation rehearsals, the ceremony. And my deployed spouse friends all got through the week long events with strength,

grace and dignity. And sadly they did it without their soldier parent/spouse present.

In listening to what they told me, the process was filled with lonely moments. However, their family, and in some cases that "family" was made up of friends



from the unit, made the difference.

As a parent, they survived their child's right of passage into adulthood, and did it well.

They are true survivors, they have persevered. And now they move on to the next challenge of getting their children off to college, again alone, without that emotional and physical support, because the soldier/spouse is still gone. And again I know they will do it.

They have already cleared the hurdles of applications, acceptances, rejections, loan applications, and other complications that comes with college applications.

Now they will make the most of getting ready to go to college. And sadly, many of my friends will have to take their children to school alone.

Again it would be better to share sending off a child into the world with emo-

tional support. But they will survive.

Unlike the popular survivor TV show, we do not get voted off the show - as deployed spouses we keep facing the challenges that being separated bring.

The anniversaries, and other special occasions happen, though it may occur in a slow motion way, and we get through them and life goes on around us.

I admire my friends' strength, resolve, and persistence. And they, like me, know at the end of this deployment we will get the grand prize.

Their spouse will come home, my soldier, my hero will come home one day and I will survive until then ...while I am waiting.

Editor's note: "While I am waiting" is a series of comments and events from the spouse of a deployed soldier who wishes to remain anonymous.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Free day of fishing

The Fort Gordon Sportsman's Club will take a limited number of service members fishing from 6 a.m. to noon on **Sunday**.

Boats and fishing tackle will be provided by club members. Post and Georgia state fishing permit requirements have been waived for this event.

Fishing will be done in Butler reservoir. There will be no cost to service members. Directions will be given at time of registration. To register, call 791-5078, 833-2834 or go to fishing permit sales at Ring Hall.

Fort Gordon looking for Army Ten-Miler Team members

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Denmark is looking for the fastest runners on post.

Denmark will lead a 10-person squad from Fort Gordon to the Army Ten-Miler held **Oct. 5** in Washington, D.C.

Try-outs for the team will take place **June 21**. The top 10 tryout finishers will comprise the team.

For more information, contact Denmark at 791-1238 or at denmarkr@gordon.army.mil.

Patriots Select soccer tryouts

The Columbia County Patriots Select Soccer tryouts for boys and girls under 13 to 17 years old are **June 9, 10, 12**, and **17**; tryouts for boys and girls under the age group of 19 are **June 9, 10, 11**, and **17**.

Tryouts begin at 6:30 p.m. at the CCRD Patriots Park. For more information call Phil Sines, 860-1148 or Andrew Hammer, 364-0414; or visit their website at www.patriotssoccer.org

SCRA golf tournament

The Signal Corps Regimental Association will sponsor a golf tournament **June 20** at the Gordon Lakes Golf Course starting at 7:30 a.m.

The four-person scramble tournament is open to all SCRA members, soldiers, retirees and family members in the Fort Gordon area. The cost is \$40 per person and includes green fees, cart, lunch and two free muligans per player.

Sign-up deadline is **June 13**.

For more information, call 791-2564.

BOSS Father's Day Basketball Classic

BOSS will host a three-on-three basketball tournament **June 14** starting at 9 a.m. in Gym One.

Teams are made up of three players and one alternate.

The tournament is open to the public, both male and female players, age 16 and over.

The cost of registration is \$25 and the deadline is **June 9**. To register, call Spc. Ariane Gonzales at 791-7862, or Sgt. Darrick Granger at 787-2334.



Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

Pauline Blandeburgo gives a "thumbs up" after sinking a putt during the annual Ladies Golf Member-Guest Invitational at Gordon Lakes Golf Course May 29.



Eleven teams of four members participated in the tournament. Each team was made up of one member of the Fort Gordon Ladies Golf group and three of their friends. Above is Dot Pringle's team. (Left to right): Winifred Russell, Ellie Gochenaur, Martha Miles and Pringle.

Ladies 'tee' time

Spc. Ryan Matson

Sports editor

They came from miles around, to hit a little white ball and laugh with their friends.

The 13 members of the Fort Gordon ladies golf group held their annual Member-Guest Invitational Golf Tournament May 29 at Gordon Lakes Golf Course starting at 9 a.m.

Forty-four ladies showed up for the event, meaning 11 ladies each brought three friends.

"The basic idea of the tournament is to have fun and share in the companionship of your friends," said Pat Bragan, who was golfing in the tournament for the eighth time.

Bragan came from Goshen Plantation Golf Course in Augusta, but the invited guests came from golf courses in Aiken and the surrounding area, including 12 from Cedar Creek Golf Course in South Carolina.

The tournament is at least 10 years old, said Ingrid Davis, tournament chairperson, who was unsure exactly how long the tournament had been held.

Following the day on the links, the ladies had lunch in the clubhouse and awarded prizes to the top duffers.

Tournament winners include:

First place:

Gail Hook, Helen Barry, Tomika Finley, Barbara Fisher

Second place:

Barbara Blatter, Bobbie Stark, Jean DeGraff, Betty White

Third place:

Ham Il Bong, Lee Song Gun, Kim OK Sun, Pan Nan Cha

Closest to the line prize:

Kim Ah Suk, Ham Il Bong

Closest to the pin, Hole 8:

Terry Glass

Closest to the pin, Hole 13:

Ellie Gochenaur



Photo from U.S. Army web page

(Left) Mike Wallace, driving the Army NASCAR race car for the injured Jerry Nadeau, had a 19th place finish in Sunday's MBNA Armed Forces Family 400 at Dover International Speedway.

At the Movies

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. All shows begin at 6:30 p.m. The late show on Saturday begins at 9:30 p.m.

Children 12 and over and all adults are \$3. Children 6-11 are \$1.50. Children under 5 are free.

For movie listings and times, call 791-3982.

June 6 - 8
Friday - Malibu's Most Wanted (PG-13)
Saturday Matinee - Rugrats Gone Wild (PG)
Saturday - Anger Management (PG-13)
Late show - Bulletproof Monk (PG-13)
Sunday Matinee - Rugrats Gone Wild (PG)
Sunday - Anger Management (PG-13)

Note: Attendance at Fort Gordon's movie theater is strictly limited to authorized Post Exchange patrons.

Wallace overcomes stop and go penalty to swipe Top-20 finish for U.S. Army racing team

DOVER, Del. – After suffering an early stop and go penalty for jumping a restart, Mike Wallace fought back for a top-20 finish Sunday in the MBNA Armed Forces Family 400 at Dover International Speedway.

Wallace, who is subbing for the injured Jerry Nadeau at the controls of the No. 01 United States Army Pontiac, finished 19th in only his second points race for MB2 Motorsports/U.S. Army Racing.

"We got caught up in that whole deal early on and it killed us," said Wallace. "I truly believe we could have had a top-10 finish, for sure, if that all didn't happen. The car was that good."

The veteran driver, who

had qualified 18th, was motoring along in the 16th-spot when the caution flag flew at lap 44 of the 400-lap event. During the ensuing restart, NASCAR claimed Wallace jumped the green flag, passing cars in the process, and was instructed to bring the U.S. Army car back into the pits for the aforementioned penalty. He, subsequently, fell back to a distant 39th, but rallied for the 19th-place posting.

"I really don't know exactly what happened on that restart," added Wallace. "When I hear go, I go. I'd almost like to take a look at a tape to see what actually occurred. We just have to put this aside and move on."

This was the second outing for MB2

Motorsports' first in-house built chassis. Earlier in the season, the same car captured a fourth-place finish at Texas Motor Speedway with Nadeau as the pilot.

"As I said, this is a good race car," offered Wallace. "We ran well. I'm happy with the performance, not only of the car, but the team. This is a good bunch here at MB2. I'm proud to be associated with them."

The U.S. Army team will now head for Pocono (Pa.) Raceway next weekend for the Pocono 500.

"We'll keep digging on it," said Wallace.

Editor's Note: This article was taken from the U.S. Army webpage, www.army.mil

Spectrum

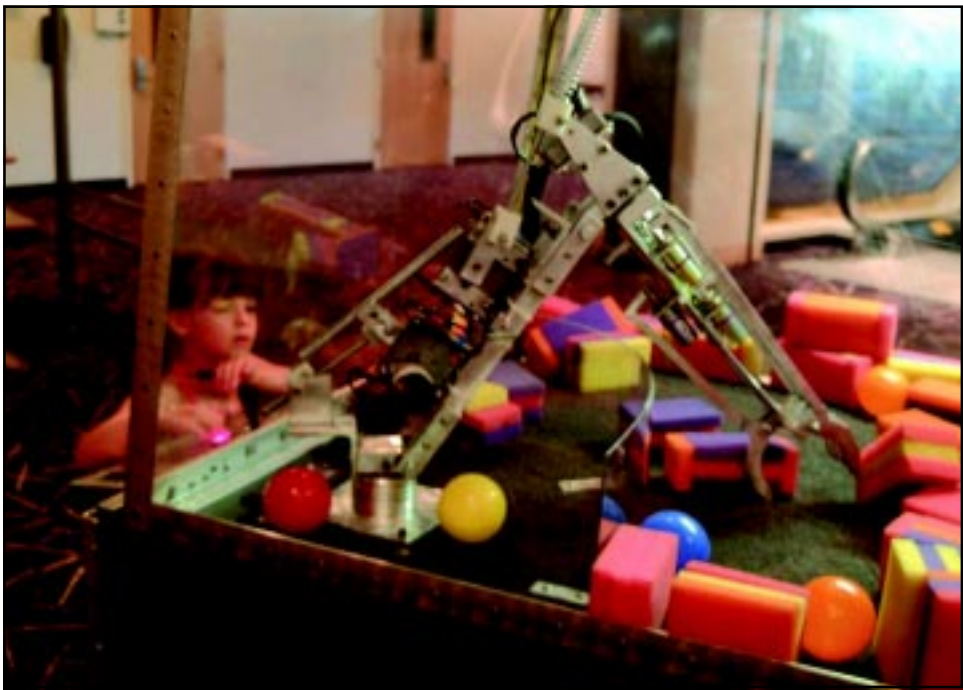


Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

The mighty Tyrannosaurus Rex, one of the favorite automated dinosaurs on exhibit at Fort Discovery this summer. The dinosaurs, which were built to precision by the Kokoro company in Japan, will be on display until Sept. 21.



The megatherium, or giant sloth, is attacked by the smilodon, a prehistoric sabre-toothed tiger. The dinosaur exhibit gave viewers a chance to not only see the ancient creatures move, but hear their vocal howls and cries as well.



A youngster tests her skills at picking objects up with a robotic arm.



One of the main concepts of Fort Discovery is to allow visitors to experience the exhibits up close and personal. Here a young biker sits atop a motorcycle and engages the motor to learn how to lean into turns. This is just one of many interactive displays featured at the museum.

Learning the fun way

Spc. Ryan Matson

Staff writer

Looking for something to do?

Why not take a trip to Mars, see dinosaurs and get hands on experience in science at Fort Discovery?

Located along the downtown Augusta Riverwalk, Fort Discovery, which opened in April 1997, is the headquarters of the National Science Center, an organization created to improve the education of young Americans in the subjects of math and science.

"The National Science Center was conceived as a partnership with the Army from its inception in the late 1970s and early 80s when Lt. Gen. (William) Hilsman (a former Fort Gordon post commander) had the idea," said Jim Frye, the deputy director of Fort Discovery for the Army. "It was based on the fact that the modern Army and modern business and industry was moving into a time that would be technologically based. The foundation for making that happen would be how well the young people of America would be able to function in that type of environment."

Fort Discovery is a 128,000-square-foot facility with two floors of more than 250 exhibits, as well as a space where traveling exhibits are featured.

The world of hands-on science

Unlike many museums, Fort Discovery offers a hand-on approach to learning science through its exhibits.

"One of the things you'll find here and in our programs is that our concept is to excite someone about math, science and technology, you need to engage them in it," Frye said. "It's not a spectator sport. You need to participate. We decided when we started this years ago that the exhibits would be interactive, you would become part of an exhibit and do something to make it work."

He said children especially enjoy this.

"Adults tend to look at things with their hands behind their back, and kids tend to ask 'How can I get my hands on that?'"

An exhibit of epic proportions

Fort Discovery's current featured exhibit is "Return of the Dinosaurs," which will be displayed until Sept. 21.

"This is the first time in 13 years that a traveling animatronic dinosaur exhibit has been in the Augusta area," Frye said. "That means a whole generation of

children has grown up since an exhibit like this has been in the area."

Visitors enter the dinosaur exhibit through a cave-like opening in the wall. Once inside, they are greeted by some life-size dinosaur replicas, and many of which are 1/2 to 3/5 life size replicas.

Among the dinosaurs exhibited in the display are replicas of the Tyrannosaurus Rex, Baluchitherium, Pteranodon, sabre-tooth tiger, woolly mammoth, and giant sloth.

Upcoming events at Fort Discovery

One of the upcoming exhibits at Fort Discovery is the "Celebration of Flight" exhibit, which commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the Wright brothers' historic first airplane flight.

Currently Frye said Fort Discovery is working with various local groups and organizations to construct a 3/4-scale model of the Wright brothers' plane, the Wright Flyer. The exhibit will start in October, Frye said.

Another opportunity for youngsters to explore at Fort Discovery over their summer vacation is the summer camps. There is a variety of interesting summer camps being offered to children.

Some of the upcoming summer camps offered this year are the "Mission to Mars" camp for students entering second and third grades, taking place June 16 to 20 and July 7 to 11, the "Draw on Nature II" camp held July 28 to Aug. 1, and the "Science Potpourri" camp June 9 to 13 and July 21 to 25.

For third and fourth graders, the camp "Math and Science: A Totally Cool Combo" will be at Fort Discovery June 23 to 27 and July 14 to 18. Fourth and fifth graders can attend the "Draw on Nature I" camp June 16 to 20, and students entering fourth through sixth grade can attend the "Robo Tech" camp Monday to June 13 and July 28 to Aug. 1 or the "Space and Rocketry Blast-off" camp June 23 to 27, July 7 to 11 or July 28 to Aug. 1. "Exploring Polar Connections" is a camp open to students going into the fifth and sixth grades Monday to June 13 and July 14 to 18.

For a description of what these camps have to offer, visit their web site at www.NationalScienceCenter.org or call Lisa Golden at 821-0646.

The cost of admission to Fort Discovery is \$8 for adults and \$6 for seniors 55 and over, active duty military and children 4 to 17. Children 4 and under are admitted for free with an adult admission.



A family of smilodons stares menacingly out at the visitors passing by from their den.